Statement

Number of Out of School Children

SI. No.	Name of the State	As on 31st March, 2007
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	133
2.	Andhra Pradesh	264013
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30565
4.	Assam	338834
5.	Bihar	2119584
6.	Chandigarh UT	5505
7.	Chhattisgarh	123632
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1614
9.	Daman and Diu	201
10.	Delhi	330001
11.	Goa	7699
12.	Gujarat	134644
13.	Haryana	238847
14.	Himachal Pradesh	5624
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	108560
16.	Jharkhand	209662
17.	Karnataka	174533
18.	Kerala	20791
19.	Lakshadweep	168
20.	Madhya Pradesh	296479
21.	Maharashtra	136892
22.	Manipur	54351
23.	Meghalaya	37234
24.	Mizoram	4913
25.	Nagaland	35335
26.	Orissa	537841
27.	Pondicherry	326
28.	Punjab	227645
29.	Rajasthan	163894
30.	Sikkim	3204
31.	Tamil Nadu	103261
32.	Tripura	15376
33.	Uttar Pradesh	785523
34.	Uttranchal	22230
35.	West Bengal;	1357601
	TOTAL:	7597216

Decling level of teachers' training institutes

t990. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that the level of teachers' training institutes is declining continuously;

(b)if so, the details of efforts being made to raise the level of such institutes; and

(c)whether there is any plan to close down the National Council of Teachers Education (NCTE)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) continuously strives to ensure adherence to its Regulations to maintain the desired quality in teacher training institutions. The Council has framed Regulations to prescribe various parameters and norms for quality teacher education programme. Every teacher education institution has to fulfil the norms and standards prescribed by NCTE. In this direction, the Regulation of 2007 has stipulated that institutions running secondary level teacher training programme like B.Ed, and B.P.Ed., would have to obtain accreditation form the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a 'letter grade B' developed by NAAC before seeking additional intake in these programmes.

NCTE has revised the Policy for inspection of institution for ensuring better quality of teacher training institutions and other matters.

The NCTE has also undertaken a study on demand and supply of teachers and teacher educators for proper and effective regulation of teacher education in the country.

(c) NCTE came into existence as a statutory body in 1995 in pursuance of NCTE Act, 1993 to achieve planned and coordinated development of Teacher Education across the country as also to determine, maintain and coordinate standards in teacher education and curb the proliferation of sub standard institutions.

A Review Committee was constituted by this Department under the Chairmanship of ShriSudeep Banerjee, the then Adviser to MHRD to conduct an indepth study of the functioning of NCTE and its Regional Committees. The Committee has, *inter-alia* recommended that the NCTE Act, 1993 should be repealed. The Government is taking further action on the recommendations of the Committee.

Removal of Election Commissioners

t-991. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government is considering or proposes to consider any proposal to amend the procedure for removal of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners;

(b)if so, the details of these proposals; and

(c)the reasons for proposing such an amendment in the said procedure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India, in July, 2004, has forwarded to the Government a set of twenty two proposals on electoral reforms, which *inter-alia* includes a proposal for an amendment provide

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.